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29 June 1973

NOTE FOR: Mr. Colby

Bill:

As you requested, here is a memorandum for you to send to the DNRO asking him to plan an agenda item for the July EXCOM meeting in response to the inter-agency study of "U.S. Responses to Soviet Anti-Satellite Activities". It asks that he prepare a paper for Committee members to illuminate general points of interest.

I have sought Lew Allen's comments and as you see from the attached note, he recommends that you ask only that the DNRO be prepared to brief the Committee at the meeting. I do not agree -- my experience suggests that the Committee cannot focus its discussion on the important issues without having a chance to look at a paper in advance. In this case, although the time is short, most of the information being asked for has already been generated in support of the study group deliberations and can be assembled in time for the meeting. An exception is the description of the performance capabilities of the several new concepts. This is a subject of great complexity and subtlety and would be difficult to do no matter how much time was available. I think, however, a properly qualified paper can be produced which will be useful in focussing the Committee discussion.

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NRO review(s)
completed.

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Donald H. Steininger

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT: Agenda Item for the July EXCOM Meeting

REFERENCE: Inter-agency Study of U.S. Responses to Soviet Anti-satellite Activities

Mr. Clements has forwarded the referenced study to Dr. Kissinger and has initiated actions within DOD to initiate work that could lead to a U.S. anti-satellite capability and to do additional studies concerning the vulnerability of the military support satellites. Another aspect of the report -- the vulnerability of our reconnaissance satellites and ways to increase the survivability of a reconnaissance capability -- needs to be addressed by the NRP EXCOM to determine whether any additional actions should be taken in this area by the NRO. I am aware that our current program already includes a modest countermeasure program and that its posture in this regard reflects the considered judgment by the Committee over the past few years about how much of the NRO budget should be diverted from other projects to counter a threat that all agree is unlikely to occur.

However, this is a judgment which we should review periodically and, in view of the Study Report and the interest of the NSC Staff and the PFIAB, I think we should discuss it at the July EXCOM and be prepared to forward a Committee position on the matter to Dr. Kissinger and the Board.

To focus our discussion, I would appreciate your providing the Committee members with a brief summary of your estimate of the current survivability of our reconnaissance systems in the face of a determined attack, the investigations and developments currently programmed in this area, and a tabulation of the performance capabilities and costs of the various additional satellite and aircraft system concepts which are currently available for Committee consideration and possible implementation. I am sending a copy of this to Mr. Inlow so that he can provide you with an estimate of the relative intelligence utility of the various possibilities.

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W. E. Colby

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